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Buddhism & Stoicism Are Stupid

Pt. I

The Eightfold Oops

Morgan Stern

1. The mistake of Correct View

There are no facts to be viewed correctly.
Information is warm and slippery:
interactive and interpretive.

2. The mistake of Right Intention

Every abuser will tell you that intent matters.
"I didn't mean it!
I didn't know!"

It's just another way for them to hold power and drop responsibility.

3. The mistake of Right Speech

See 1 for truth,
see obviousness for no hate speech,
see wrong for no idle chatter.

4. The mistake of right Conduct

If right conduct means avoid misconduct,
then you have a list of don'ts,
are you valuing action at all?
Or are you creating a value system that
calls avoidance a virtue?

5. The mistake of Correct Livelihood

This one's a mixed bag, which I can throw out by saying don't earn a livelihood.

6. The mistake of Correct Effort

"Avoid unwholesome states?" You just put two negatives in three words. "Correct" sounds like the system talking. "Wholesome" sounds like free moralizing.

7. The mistake of Right Mindfulness

This one's good.
Meditate long enough to get back in
your body again. To feel desire.
If there's a jolt, run in its direction.
If there's a droop, go ahead and nap.

8. The mistake of Right Samadhi

Oh, I know this one.
This is when you do the four mistakes
of dhyana, which reinforces the
mistake of the bojjhanga, and then that
goes up to the mistake of upekkha.
In some traditions this is seen as
ekaggata, which is a mistake,
because that could lead to vipassana.
Which is, wow, the last thing you want.

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Open your mind

Wider

Bigger

Warmer

Turn over

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